

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 474

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor Don Willoughby upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Don Willoughby, who has been inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the son of Charles and Dorothy Willoughby, Mr. Willoughby joined his older brother, Al, on the family farm, known at the time as Green Hill Farm; Grade A dairy was the main farming operation, in addition to raising crops for feed and forage, and tobacco; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willoughby attended Wilson County Schools, where he enjoyed athletics and balanced his extracurricular activities and his farm duties; and

WHEREAS, throughout his high school career, Mr. Willoughby's main interest was FFA, and his involvement was under the advisement of his father, Charles, and Cliff Ricketts, Tommy Brewer, and Louis Fletcher; he participated in several judging, public speaking, state champion parliamentary procedure teams, and dairy proficiency competitions. He received both State Farmer and American Farmer degrees, and he was elected as a State reporter for the 1978-1979 year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willoughby received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and Secondary Education from Middle Tennessee State University in 1981 and subsequently

returned to live and work on the family farm; he later earned a master's degree in vocational education in 1990; and

WHEREAS, as his family began to grow, Mr. Willoughby accepted a position with the West Wilson Utility District, and in 1986, he began teaching agriculture for ninth-grade students at Mt. Juliet Jr. High School; and

WHEREAS, during the late 1980s and 1990s, agriculture education underwent a curriculum change, as fewer students came from farm families and retained more interest in other agricultural endeavors; Mr. Willoughby was a part of the development and implementation of the shift from farming courses to more diverse offerings in mechanics, horticulture, wildlife and forestry, leadership, agribusiness, small and large animal care, and courses for college credit; and

WHEREAS, a 1987 charter member of Mt. Juliet FFA Alumni, Mr. Willoughby continues to support the organization and his community as a treasurer, and in 2016, he was elected to the board of directors for the Wilson County Farm Bureau; he has served on the board of the Wilson County Fair since 1988 and as chair of the Country Ham Show since 2004, equipped with a mission to increase youth and adult participation in showcasing their skills in the art and tradition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willoughby remains active and enjoys working the farm alongside his family, raising beef cattle and high-quality square bale and rolled hay for feed and local livestock producers; and

WHEREAS, aside from his many professional accomplishments, Mr. Willoughby is most grateful for the love and support of his cherished children, Dale Willoughby and Kate Willoughby Grigsby; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and

principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that we honor Don Willoughby for his valuable service to agriculture, agriculture education, and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Don Willoughby upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee and extending to him our best wishes for continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.